

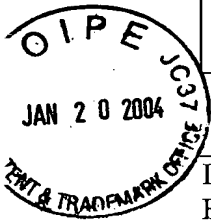
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 509326391US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 20, 2004

Signature:

Monica L. Thomas
(Monica L. Thomas)

Docket No.: HO-P01899US3
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Huda Y. Zoghbi et al.

Application No.: 09/980,381

Filed: June 1, 2000

Art Unit: 1632

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE
THERAPEUTIC USE OF AN ATONAL-
ASSOCIATED SEQUENCE FOR DEAFNESS,
OSTEOARTHRITIS AND ABNORMAL CELL
PROLIFERATION

Examiner: Wilson, Michael C.

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This submission is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed October 21, 2003. A Petition for Extension of Time of Two Months and the requisite fee is filed herewith. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and the requisite fee is also filed herewith.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this document.